**JOSEPH HART (1712–1768) AND HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE EARLY BRITISH EVANGELICAL MOVEMENT**

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**A Short Summary of the Dissertation**

This dissertation examines the role of the Independent minister Joseph Hart (1712–1768) in the early British evangelical movement, which was born out of a series of religious revivals in Britain starting in the 1730s. It proposes that after Hart’s spiritual conversion in 1757, he carried on the spirit of the Evangelical Revival through his preaching ministry, through social welfare as a guardian to orphans, and most notably, through his gospel-centered hymns. The study also shows how Hart through his hymnody defended and promulgated the Calvinistic type of evangelical theology and piety. Chapter one introduces and presents the research question, the thesis, the state of literature, and the significance of the research. Chapter two studies Hart’s life, ministry, and works against the backdrop of the eighteenth-century Evangelical Revival, producing an updated and critical portrait of him. Chapter three appraises Hart’s hymns within the context of eighteenth-century English hymnody by comparing and contrasting them with those of the leading evangelical hymnists of that period. It demonstrates how hymnody became a hallmark of evangelicals as a group. Chapter four evaluates Hart’s theology and spirituality in light of the religious context of his day. In particular, it considers his doctrines of the Trinity, the Scriptures, salvation, and sanctification, showing how his views on these matters resonated with the views of the orthodox reformers. The last chapter provides a general summary of the research, gives a few final thoughts on Hart, and offers topics for further research.

**Short Curriculum Vitae**

Born and reared in the Philippines, Brian G. Najapfour has been a minister of the gospel since 2001. He has served both in the Philippines and in the U.S. He is pastor of Heritage Reformed Congregation in Jordan, Ontario, Canada. Called to the gospel ministry at the young age of sixteen, he began his theological education in 1997 at the Center for Biblical Studies Institute and Seminary in the Philippines, where, with God’s help, he earned his Bachelor of Theology (BTh) degree in 2001, followed by his Master in Biblical Studies (MBS) degree in 2004. In 2006 he enrolled at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, Michigan, for his Master of Theology (ThM) degree, which he completed by God’s grace in 2009. He has authored and co-edited numerous books (including *Amazing Love! How Can It Be: Studies on Hymns by Charles Wesley,* 2020), and has contributed several articles to journals, periodicals, and encyclopedias. He is founder and president of Biblical Spirituality Press and co-founder and president of God is Our Help Ministry. He and his wife Sarah have five children. He blogs at biblicalspiritualitypress.org.